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IAN BAUCOM INAUGURATED AS 18TH PRESIDENT OF MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

COURTESY PHOTO/ANDY DUBACK

Former president Laurie Patton places the official college madallion around President Baucom's neck during the ceremony.

By RACHELLE TALBERT & NORAH KHAN
News Editors

One day after the 225th anniversary of the college's founding, Ian Baucom was formally inaugurated as the 18th president of Middlebury College. The ceremony was held on Sunday, Nov. 2 in Virtue Field House, marking the culmination of a three-day celebration highlighting the arts, academics and the greater Middlebury community.

Baucom was joined by faculty, staff, students, alumni and delegates representing more than 35 colleges and universities. The ceremony ran for approximately three hours and featured remarks from

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SGA amends referendum demanding protections for student rights amid debate

By MET LY
Contributing Writer

A student-led motion for a referendum on rights to protections and free expression on campus faced a vote by the Student Government Association (SGA) on Wednesday, Nov. 5 to decide its fate after weeks of debate. The votes had not yet been cast by the time The Campus went to print on Wednesday.

The proposed referendum's first draft was introduced on Oct. 15 by a group of student organizers. Its original five demands have since been parred down to three: that the college prohibit employees from providing assistance to federal authorities in seeking information about students, revise the Middlebury Handbook policy to require Middlebury officials to provide identification proof before demanding the same from students and clarify that pamphleting and social media posts are expressions of free speech that must go unrestricted by the college.

The preamble cites concerns about government overreach, campus safety and potential ambiguity in institutional policies related to protest and identification, drawing from both local and national developments. If the the motion passes through SGA, the entire student body will be able to vote on the referendum.

According to an Oct. 2 op-ed in The Campus, Ryan Ulen '26 and Violet Gordon '26 were investigated and retroactively threatened with disciplinary action after distributing pamphlets about the CIA when it held an information session at Middlebury Language Schools. The charges were dropped after pressure from both faculty and students, and Gordon was issued an apology for a process that "should have never happened," according to the op-ed.

Another situation cited was UC Berkeley's sending of 160 names of students, faculty and staff as part of an antisemitism investigation to Trump administration officials. This move sparked heavy backlash, including an open letter condemning the act signed by 600 university professors.

Sophia Kahn '26, one of the lead

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Women's soccer advances to Semifinals with win over Hamilton

By THIE HARTHONO
Contributing Writer

The Middlebury women's soccer team hosted Hamilton in Saturday's NESCAC Quarterfinal. The Panthers vanquished the Continentals 2–0, advancing to the semifinals for the first time in four years.

A confident showing from the Panther defense and a stellar performance by goalkeeper Livia Davidson '26 nullified the Hamilton attack, resulting in a Middlebury clean sheet. At the other end of the field, the Continentals languished under the pressure of the Middlebury attack. First-half goals from Gigi Day '27 and Kjersti Moritz '28 saw the Panthers through to the semifinals.

The Panthers' first glimpse of goal came in the seventh minute. A short corner kick found Lauren Tracey '29 unmarked at the edge of the box, whose low shot from 20 yards out rattled the left post. Attacker Carolina Espinosa's '26 follow-up attempt sailed over the crossbar.

Middlebury came knocking again in the 15th minute as the Continentals attempted to play out from the back, wilting under the Panthers' fierce pressure and giving up the ball. The Panthers advanced up the pitch with quick, surgical passes. Midfielder Stella Espinasse's '27 attempt from the top of the penalty area deflected off a defender. Another salvo, again, deflected; another shot, this one directly into the goalkeeper's hands.

Middlebury finally broke through in the 22nd minute. After a corner kick was played back to Wynne Braemar '29, her spinning cross into the box was deftly guided to the right corner by Roshann Purcell '26. The Continental goalkeeper swiped it into the path of Day, who pounced on the ball to give the Panthers the lead.

Davidson faced her first real test in the 24th minute, dropping right to push away a low, powerful shot. She stifled another attempt in the 39th minute.

In the 43rd minute, Moritz made a daring leap to get onto the end of Kacy Walker's '29 probing cross into the box, clattering into the keeper for a Hamilton free kick.

Middlebury scored their second in the final minute of the first half. Walker won the ball high up the pitch, passing to Moritz, who wove through a pair of Hamilton defenders and curled a shot into the upper left corner from just inside the penalty area.

The Continentals generated more chances in the second half, frantically fighting to keep their season alive. A bending attempt in the 49th minute forced Davidson into a diving save.

The Continentals' best chance to get back into the game came three minutes later, but an open shot from inside the Panther penalty area glanced haplessly off the left post.

The Panthers maintained their assault on the Hamilton goal. With half an hour to play, Chloe Swindle '27 wound up from 25 yards, forcing a stretching save from the Continentals' keeper.

In the final seconds of the match, a Hamilton attempt was closed down by Davidson to secure the Panthers' 11th shutout

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"THESE SHINING LIVES" ILLUMINATES GRIEF AND WOMANHOOD IN 1920S ILLINOIS

COURTESY PHOTO/DARIA BISHOP

The "Radium Girls" in These Shining Lives acted on a stage meant to imitate the shape of a clock.

By ELIZABETH SHIERMAN
Layout Editor

Powerful depictions of female friendship, American history and grief lit up the Seeler Studio Theatre this past weekend as the cast of "These Shining Lives" took to the stage. The faculty-led production ran from Oct. 30–Nov. 1, with a total of four performances.

The play, written by Melanie Marnich and directed by Associate Professor of Theater Michole Biancosino, is about the lives of the "Radium Girls." Based on the true story of women in 1920s—1930s Ottawa, Illinois, the story follows the life of Catherine Donohue (Molly Snow '26) as she starts working at the Radium Dial company.

This company was one of the few employers of women in Illinois at the time, where hundreds took jobs painting watch dials with radium-based paint. At first, the job seemed like a dream. Women were paid relatively high wages and weren't required to do laborious work. Considering how recently women had been granted the right to vote (1919), they were eager to secure employment and exercise their rights. Little did they know their employers were terminally poisoning them. What seemed like an uplifting opportunity would lead to exploitation, disease and death.

The opening scene depicts a morning where Catherine prepares for her first day at the Radium Dial company, her first job ever. Excited and nervous, she asks her husband Tom (Owen Foberg '27.5), to reassure her that she can succeed at the job. He affirms that her goal will come true.

As Catherine arrives, she is welcomed by the supervisor of the company Mr. Reed (Max Blumenthal '27) and is placed in a room with three other women, Charlotte (Hannah Alberti '26), Pearl (Jordan Henry '26), and Frances (Norah Santoni de Castro '26). The women teach Catherine how to paint the dials with a simple "lip, dip, paint" sequence.

As Catherine remarks that the brush paint tastes funny, they reassure her she'll get used to the flavor in no time. Charlotte, who can "read bones," anticipates that Catherine will be a good painter, and Catherine returns home that day with a sum of money and high hopes for the job.

Slowly, the four women become close friends and the dial company becomes a consistent part of Catherine's life. Time in the play flies by quickly. In one

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Environmental advocate Tabi Joda visits Middlebury

By KAI ARROWOOD
Staff Writer

On Tuesday Oct. 28, prominent environmental activist Tabi Joda visited Middlebury to discuss his work with One Billion Trees for Africa, an organization dedicated to the reforestation of the Sahel, a rapidly desertifying strip of land across Northern and Central Africa. The talk was hosted by a wide range of departments, including Environmental Studies, Anthropology, Sustainability & Environmental Affairs and African Studies.

Joda's journey to Middlebury was not simple. The talk was originally scheduled in September, but was postponed due to visa delays. Middlebury is one of multiple colleges and universities Joda has visited in the past few weeks, including Williams College and the University of Delaware.

At a school with the oldest environmental studies program in the country and an emphasis on global affairs, Joda's talk was pertinent to the Middlebury community.

Over the past 15 years, One Billion Trees for Africa has planted nearly three million indigenous trees in communities struggling with mass out-migration, poverty and desertification, Joda said. These trees help to create a thriving ecosystem and to regenerate soil fertility, as well as providing a new industry where tree leaves are dried, exported to the U.S., and used in many popular supplements.

Joda opted for a Ted-talk style speech, leaving nearly half of his allotted time for student questions. He was introduced by Ken Kessel, a college friend of Gordan Schuester Professor of Anthropology Ellen Oxfeld, who donated his wedding gifts to One Billion Trees for Africa. Kessell and Oxfeld described Joda's status as an ambassador of the African Union's Great Green Wall Initiative and a consultant for the United Nations.

Joda grew up near the Mambila Plateau in Cameroon, where he witnessed forests disappear over the course of his childhood. His environmental advocacy began while studying at Nigeria's Ahmadu Bello University, when he and classmates developed a plan to plant trees along the campus boundary to provide shade and improve conditions for students.

"That was my first step toward One Billion Trees for Africa," Joda told the audience of roughly 30 students and faculty.

He opened his talk by asking attendees to stand and imagine the Sahel — "feel the heat" — before inviting them to sit and learn how a changing climate transforms the lives of millions.

He went on to describe his work in communities, where he encouraged families to work together, establish nurseries, and eventually transplant the trees into the ground. In each new community he encounters, Joda said that he wakes up before everyone else and goes door to door, explaining his plan. Communities are nearly always enthusiastic, Joda said, because they "need hope."

Student questions ranged from political enquiries to what Joda's favorite tree is (avocado). Joda received the questions amicably, asking students' names and repeatedly praising Middlebury.

"You are in paradise," he said. "Be grateful you are an American."

The talk ended up going 15 minutes overtime, and most students managed to ask a question. The majority of attendees were underclassmen, a trend Professor of Anthropology Michael Sheridan said was because students tend to be curious about, but uncommitted to, African Studies. Sheridan, during his nearly 25-year career at Middlebury, has seen the size of the African Studies major plummet. Before 2000, African Studies consistently had around 15 students across the grades. Now there is only one.

KAI ARROWOOD/ THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Tabi Joda came to speak at Middlebury on Oct. 28.

"It drives me a little bit nuts that we are ostensibly a global liberal arts school, we're big on languages and yet we haven't really built out that part of the world in our curriculum," Sheridan said. The only indigenous African language taught at Middlebury is an introductory Swahili course, put on during J-Term.

Middlebury is gradually building up its African Studies programming, with a new French class specializing in francophone African literature and two J-Term classes travelling to Uganda and Namibia.

Coincidentally, a similar lecture about timber and land transformation in Tanzania was delivered two weeks ago by Ewan Robinson, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Notre Dame. Compared to Joda's, his speech was on the technical side, reviewing satellite images and legal documents.

"I think we need to do both," Sheridan said. "I think we need to do technical skills and create curiosity and critical thinking and also figure out how to get people to aspire."

SGA AMENDS REFERENDUM DEMANDING PROTECTIONS FOR STUDENT RIGHTS AMID DEBATE

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organizers, said the referendum effort was inspired by student-driven campaigns across the country supported by organizations including the ACLU and Amnesty International under the initiative Firewall for Freedom.

"Learning about that movement sparked the idea to do something like a referendum at Middlebury, given the current political climate," Kahn said.

In the original draft shared with The Campus, organizers grounded the referendum in Middlebury's own institutional commitments, quoting the Student Handbook, President Baucom's public commitments and the college's mission statement devoted to open inquiry and freedom of speech.

To move a referendum forward, organizers first needed Student Government Association (SGA) sponsorship.

"We wrote out our ideal referendum with our five demands, and then we presented it two weeks ago at the Senate Assembly to explain to senators that this is something that we care about and why we want each of these five things," Kahn said.

The resolution received unanimous sponsorship from the senators when it was initially presented, according to Kahn.

A vote was initially scheduled for the Oct. 29 SGA Meeting, during which Speaker of the Senate Jeffrey Teh '28 relayed updates from a discussion with Vice President of Student Affairs Smita Ruzicka, and opened the floor to discussion with student organizers who were also present. The vote would determine whether the referendum would be turned to a resolution instead.

"Only the SGA passes the resolution, and then they show that to administration... which would only result in an email update to the student body," organizer Natalie Martinez '28 in an interview with The Campus. "A referendum, on the other hand, would be voted on by the whole study body whose involvement is enough action and activism within campus to have administration ask what are students worried about... and have a conversation about that."

Kahn listed two main aims for the referendum.

"One is education and the other is putting pressure on the Board of Trustees and [administration] to enact policy change, and they're both very interconnected," Kahn said. "There's an amazing history of student activism at Middlebury and at this moment, the most powerful thing we can do as students is show up and not be complicit."

In the Oct. 29 session, the Senate removed two provisions: The call for the college to reject the Compact for Excellence in Higher Education was removed entirely and a provision to expand access to immigration-related legal and financial support was separated from the referendum and will be developed as a stand alone SGA initiative.

In a statement to The Campus, Teh, representing the SGA, said that the Senate's decision to remove the first demand was informed by President Baucom already signing on an open letter rejecting the compact. However,

COURTESY PHOTO / ANNA DOUCET

On Oct. 23, over 1,000 protestors, including students from the college, gathered on the Middlebury Town Green to protest the Trump administration. The original draft of the referendum demanded that the college reject Trump's "Compact for Exellence in Higher Education."

organizers questioned whether President Baucom's signature alone constituted institutional rejection.

"Neither of the statements that he has signed on are an explicit rejection of that compact, and it's not clear if he is representing our [college] or he as an individual," organizer Charlie Fisch '26 said. "The student voice was also not included in that and so our concern is accepting that those statements count as a rejection is not entirely true."

Senators decided to postpone the vote until Nov. 5 in order to refine language in the legislation, gather constituent feedback and coordinate a nonpartisan education plan before a campus-wide vote.

In an update to The Campus, SGA leadership communicated that the Executive team had recently met with Ruzicka, who shared a near-final draft of the new protest and free expression policy for the Student Handbook. The revisions were developed in consultation with General Counsel Hannah Ross, with whom the SGA is planning on hosting a student event on Nov. 17.

"The revisions at first glance appeared to almost completely address articles 4 & 5 around identification and pamphleting/ non-disruptive protest, as well as clarifying the timeline to register protests to 48 hours in advance," Teh wrote. "Depending on how Senators respond to this new information, it may result in the referendum being made obsolete or taken off the table, given that nearly all of the articles have been addressed."

If the Senate votes to hold a referendum, it would be held before Thanksgiving Break during the week of Nov. 17.

Student organizers will host a teach-in on Nov. 7 in the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest at 4:30 p.m., focused on national events shaping campus life and how Middlebury is responding to them. Organizers said the event aims to examine how institutional decisions are made and to offer students guidance on how to engage in those processes.

Editor's Note: Managing Editor Mandy Berghela '26 contributed reporting to this article.

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students, faculty, community partners and former colleagues, blending prayer, poetry, personal reflection and calls to action.

Special guest speakers included Julia Alvarez '71, writer in residence emerita; Bettina Matthias, professor of language and linguistics and the chair of the German department; Dima Ayoub, associate professor of Arabic and department chair; and Timothy Parsons, Facilities Services Horticulturist. Representatives from the Middlebury Alumni Association, the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Town of Middlebury Selectboard also shared remarks.

Alvarez reflected on what it means to lead during turbulent times amidst disconcerting events during her time as a student.

"I want to express gratitude to the warm hands tendering this institution over to your care," Alvarez said, addressing Baucom. "Being a bridge over troubled waters is no easy feat, and your thoughtfulness and care provide a model for how to serve with a listening ear and a kind heart. Gracias."

James E. Ryan, former president and current professor of law and education at the University of Virginia, where Baucom served as provost, described him as a morally upright leader with the necessary skills to serve as president.

"Being a real person who is also a college president matters because most people trust real people, not just somebody playing the role, and they can usually tell the difference," Ryan said in his address. "With the trust of a community, there is no obstacle too difficult to overcome and no goal too ambitious to achieve. Without the community's trust, you cannot lead."

Ryan stepped down from his role as president this past June following pressures from the Trump administration amid the ongoing battle of diversity, equity and inclusion efforts in higher education. He addressed the events leading to his departure from UVA, speaking to Baucom's values amidst the decision.

"I would consult with Ian about whether I ought to give in or stand firm," Ryan said. "Ian's advice was to look for compromise when you can, but hold fast when principles are involved."

Events outside of the ceremony on Sunday included several meet and greets with Baucom, three academic roundtables run by professors, a poster fair to showcase student work and community organizations, a special four-course Dolci dinner and a celebration of the night of the arts in the Mahaney Arts Center.

Damascus Kafumbe, professor of international studies and music and Amy Carlin, special assistant to the president, associate director of community relations and presidential events specialist oversaw the schedule of events that comprised the inauguration. As co-chairs of the Inauguration Committee, they spent roughly ten months planning all the events.

Kafumbe, who was on academic leave when the president's office requested that he co-chair the committee with Carlin, was thrilled to welcome Baucom and his family to the community.

"I had been reading about his potential contributions to the institution, so I saw work on the committee as a way to support his mission and vision," Kafumbe wrote in an email to The Campus. "As co-chairs, our responsibilities included managing administrative tasks; attending regular meetings with committee members and external stakeholders; co-developing and framing the theme for the inauguration; assisting with event planning and execution; facilitating faculty, staff, and student involvement; and overseeing the activities of various subcommittees."

Carlin has served as a liaison between the college and town while coordinating presidential events in the past.

"I was truly excited to be part of this historic Middlebury event, and it was a pleasure collaborating with Damascus and the rest of the committee to bring President Baucom's inauguration to life," Carlin wrote in an email to The Campus. "Throughout the process, I had the privilege of working closely with President Ian Baucom and his wife Wendy, to help bring their vision for the inauguration to life."

Baucom opened his address by acknowledging the loss of Lia Smith '26, who passed away on Oct. 18, and the community response that followed.

"Thank you for having taught me so swiftly that at Middlebury, family is not a metaphor," Baucom said. "It is a lived reality."

After sitting with the loss, Baucom addressed the history of the college, given the anniversary of Middlebury's founding in 1800. He painted a picture of a continually evolving community, with new and diverse names added to the list of founders. These names, Baucom said, are "the names of who we are, who we can become and who we are for."

That question — what is Middlebury for? — guided the inaugural weekend. One answer Baucom gave is that Middlebury is for democracy.

Baucom, who was born in South Africa to missionaries, grew up surrounded by the stark reality of apartheid. Alongside raising him and his siblings, his parents ran adult literacy programs for Black mine workers and were involved with community outreach.

"I got my belief and my call to education from [my parents]," Baucom said. "They gave their lives to what they believed in. How I arrived in Middlebury from a town of a couple hundred people in deeply rural, 1970s apartheid South Africa is one of those American stories that just doesn't happen without colleges and universities opening their doors to students everywhere...I am profoundly a beneficiary of the American project of democratic education. It changed my parents' lives, it changed my life, I believe in it and as president I will fight for it and for every student whose lives we can help open."

He went on to illustrate the changes in students across Middlebury's history, highlighting the stories of Alexander Twilight, the first student of African descent to graduate from Middlebury in 1823, as well as Maybelle Chellis, the first woman to graduate in 1886.

According to Baucom, we are entering a moment in which we must make a case for the liberal arts college as being a center of democracy, pointing to convocation and commencement as microcosms of pluralism in action.

Baucom continued, describing what Middlebury is for: climate responsibility; connection across political divides; the arts, writing and scientific innovation.

"We are for the conviction that in a time in which too much of our culture and too much of our public discourse defines itself by what it is against, that we will define ourselves by what we are for," Baucom said.

"I am for the commitment that I have come to Middlebury, not to be the president, but to be your president." Baucom said. "I am here to be your president on sweet days and hard days, days of snow and days of spring."

COURTESY PHOTOS/ANDY DUBACK

Above: President Baucom is joined onstage by administration, faculty, and staff. Bottom left: Delegates from over 35 colleges and universities sat in the crowd during the ceremony. Bottom right: Sarina Chitkara '25.5 spoke about the "Invisible threads" that connect the Middlebury community with Anina Dentel-Pham '27.

Skatepark project moves forward with community support despite challenges

By DYLAN MCGINTY
Contributing Writer

The Middlebury Skatepark Project, a non-profit dedicated to advocating for the construction of a concrete skate park in town, aims to see the project completed by 2028 in Recreation Park, located directly across from Mary Hogan Elementary School on Mary Hogan Drive. The nonprofit's team began hosting public design meetings over the summer and has since laid out plans with the chosen design firm New Line Skateparks, meeting biweekly to work out the details of the development.

Making progress on the project has not been easy, according to Ethan Murphy, the nonprofit's president who first conceived of the park in 2011. Difficulties have arisen from working with the municipal government over planning and funding. The town recently installed a stormwater system next to the planned location, making the 7500 square foot design impossible to carry out in full.

"All we're asking for 7500 square feet of safe, designated space for wheeled sports, which doesn't seem like it should be this hard," Murphy said. "Everything takes way longer than I would like it to take, and I think citizens would like it to take... If I was building a pickleball court, it would have been done years ago."

Some town residents and representatives of the Middlebury Parks and Recreation department have expressed concerns over the skate park being "a gathering place for adolescents," according to Murphy. But Murphy said one of the main incentives to develop a skate park in Middlebury is to mitigate the appeal of street skating, which is dangerous due to the risk of accidents with cars. This site would create a safe venue for not just skateboarding but all types of wheeled sports, from biking to roller skating, reducing the risk for beginners and young people.

"I've talked to many other municipalities in Vermont, and many rec departments say it's the most consistently well-used asset in the town," Murphy said. The Towns of Bennington and Waterbury both completed their own skate parks this fall.

On the Skatepark Project's website, Greg Boglioli, chair of the Middlebury Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, endorsed the project along with several other local organizations.

"We believe a skate park at Rec. Park would be a true asset to the town and would be another step in the departmental and committee's goal of revitalizing the park and making it a true family destination," Bogliogo wrote.

The park will cost an estimate$562,000. Fundraising done by the non-profit provided 90% of the funds to pay New Line Skatepark, with the town government covering the remaining 10% of costs. Last year, when the town planned to reduce the Skatepark Project's budget, public advocacy efforts helped maintain the funding at current levels.

Local business support has been crucial. Two Brothers Tavern hosted a fall fundraiser last year and will host another on Friday, Nov. 8 from 5-9 p.m.

The Middlebury Skatepark Project is focused not only on the skatepark project, but on an education mission. It has

COURTESY PHOTO/ ETHAN MURPHY
Community kids and members of the Skatepark Project pose dowtown on a mini-ramp.

conducted summer programs with Mary Hogan, teaching grade-school aged children to learn wheeled sports. It hopes to expand summer offerings upon the completion of the skate park, as its location would be accessible for the elementary and middle school.

Murphy hopes that the skate park will be open to the public for 10 months of the year.

"We know how dedicated people who never had something will be when they get it...you'll see kids shoveling snow in March [to skate]," Murphy said. The project built a mini-ramp as a proof of concept, with support from Silver Maple Construction.

As a non-profit organization, the project relies on volunteers to advance its goals, including Middlebury students. Clark O'Bryan '23 presented the first site analysis and design to the Middlebury Parks and Recreation Department.

There are currently three students enrolled in the Community-Connected Learning Course at the college who have selected the Skateboard Project as their community partnership. Brooke Dolan '26 is working on a social cohesion mural for the park in partnership with local eldercare facilities, the Charter House Coalition and the Ilsley Public Library. Other students are working on the website and social media for the project.

"I was connected to the Middlebury Skatepark Project to help organize mural painting sessions with various community groups," Dolan said. "The goal of this project is to connect with community members and give as many people a voice as possible, through contributions to a mural in the future community skatepark."

At the start of each academic year, the Skatepark Project participates in the Community Engagement Fair, allowing Middlebury students the opportunity to sign up for their newsletter and become involved in the project's initiatives. Students are encouraged to keep an eye out for an announcement of the design committee's second open meeting, as the skate park strongly values the input of the local community.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship connects college and local Christians

By ELLA CALLAHAN
Staff Writer

The transition to college for new students on campus is not always easy, and support from peers with commonalities is invaluable. One club that has made it a priority to build this sort of supportive community for Middlebury students — both on campus and in town — is the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF).

IVCF provides Christians, or those that are curious about Christianity, with an opportunity to gather and attend a myriad of events. This also includes regular Bible studies in specific groups, such as those for first years, athletes, or those who wish to worship in Spanish.

David Zhao '27, the incoming treasurer of IVCF, said that the club has had a significant impact on his time at Middlebury. Joining in his first year, Zhao was immediately connected with similarly-minded students, some of whom are now his closest friends at Middlebury.

Jonathan Buchholz '27, co-president of IVCF, noted the importance of having a space for new students to practice their faith.

"For me, it was really good meeting other first years not just in terms of making friends, but also in growing together and seeing that I wasn't doing it by myself," Buchholz said.

Zhao, a member of the Men's Squash team, also attends the student-athlete Bible study section, which he notes has grown in size significantly over the years. The club also organizes events outside of Bible studies, including bringing in

COURTESY PHOTO/ JONATHAN BUCHHOLZ
Members of the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) gather for an event.

music groups and connecting with other colleges' Christian communities, such as those at Norwich College and Williams College.

One notable aspect of the club is the connection it bridges between college students and the Middlebury community at large. Many students who are part of IVCF also attend services at churches in town like Memorial Baptist Church (MBC). Buchholz, who is a member of that congregation, provides transportation for students from the campus to the services to make it easier for them to attend.

"I think we have tried to do our best to facilitate connections outside of Middlebury. Middlebury is really insular, even just the college itself, because we're in the middle of nowhere, and I think sometimes it can get kind of hard when it feels like the only people you know are the Christians on campus," Buchholz said.

"The Christian community in the Middlebury town has helped students feel at home for many years," Bella Winckler '27, the current treasurer of IVCF, said. "The churches in town serve as a great connection point between college students and the Middlebury town community."

It is not just the Middlebury students who appreciate this connection to the town. The members of MBC who live locally value the youthful energy this relationship provides.

"There's a lot of kids who either came up in Christian homes, or they wanted to know more, they wanted to explore their spiritual side," Laurel Calkins, a Middlebury resident and MBC member said.

One of the defining features of this community is the host family initiative. For the past few years, students have been matched with families who attend Memorial Baptist Church as a way to help them adjust to college life and form meaningful connections through their worship, according to Calkins, a coordinator for the initiative.

"A lot of these kids are a pretty long way from home and don't have the resources to go back and forth very often," Calkins said. "A lot of times it's very helpful for kids to have another grown up to talk to ... we are never looking to take the place of the family, we are looking to be a supplement."

Beyond helping with the transition to college life, these host families provide an additional support network that allows students to thrive at Middlebury. They often invite their students over for dinner, out to coffee, or take them along to different activities in Vermont. They also give students a listening ear, offering guidance through Scripture and their own experiences. Some families even help their students with storage over the summer or transportation to and from the airport.

"The MBC community members I have interacted with are so generous and welcoming, and I appreciate the time and care they put into seeing how we are and doing what they can to help," Winckler said.

Through tailored Bible study groups, various events, rides to local churches and a supportive host family program, IVCF fosters deep fellowship and meaningful connection among students and the town.

COBWEB ANTIQUES OPENS ON MAIN STREET

By IZZY RONDA
Local Editor

CobWeb Antiques opened its doors at 60 Main Street, the former location of Buy Again Alley, on Sunday, Oct. 26. Owners Gary and Jill DeVoe of New Haven have long dreamed of running their own antique store, and they've finally found the spot to showcase the carefully curated collection they've built over the years.

The shop has a large front window overlooking Main Street, rows of vintage license plates lining the molding and wooden cabinets filled with the DeVoes' collection: coins, glass apothecary bottles and many other timeworn treasures.

Gary spoke fondly of the space, recalling how he first walked past it about a year ago with his daughter and noticed the "For Sale" sign out front.

"It's got that tin ceiling, and this is perfect for an antique store," Gary said.

The DeVoes are originally from Florida, but Gary has been visiting Vermont since he was a kid.

"So during the summertime, I used to come up here around was like 13, 14, 15. And we travel all over, you know, this area, Middlebury," Gary said.

Gary remembers spending time browsing classic antique shops around Vermont as a child. His family operated a car business in Florida, and he spent about 30 years working there in auto sales before selling his shares of the company to his brother and moving to Vermont with Jill and their children.

"There's a picture of me around the corner there, coming out of an antique store in White River Junction in 1970, and I'm carrying one of those phonographs. I always wanted to have an antique store, and I've been in them all my life. And I met all different people that ran antique stores," Gary said.

Jill also spoke about the couple's passion for antiques, explaining that they had originally planned to open the store in a barn on their New Haven property.

"We met in Florida, and we moved up here planning to open the antique store in our barn," Jill said. "It's a big dairy barn, and we had all these showcases and the desk and everything set up in there."

Ultimately, zoning regulations made that plan impossible, which led them to their Middlebury location.

Jill described the joy of opening CobWeb Antiques, noting that restoring the contents of the store was a process that made realizing her husband's dream especially rewarding.

"So all this furniture has been sitting in there for 22 years. When we decided to do this I just took that furniture oil and, you know, brought them back to life," Jill said. "Just to nurture his dream and to see this all come to fruition has been really exciting."

The DeVoes spoke fondly about their customer base so far, sharing that it is a steady mix of local residents, college students, general tourists and passersby.

"Its been every age group, every state," Jill said. "Some people come in and breeze through and leave, and others will spend quite a bit of time."

The DeVoes intend to operate the shop on their own, without additional staff.

"You could call it the Mom and Pop antique store," Jill said.

Gary showed a book filled with signed cabinet cards featuring names like Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Charlie Chaplin and even all four of The Beatles members. He's spent years building the collection, finding pieces online and through eBay.

There is a homey and welcoming vibe to CobWeb Antiques which appeals to a wide variety of customers, according to Eliza Cho '27. She recalled walking into the store with her mom just after the shop's opening.

"It felt like stepping into a secret museum, full of endless possibilities for discovery and connection. I started flipping through a pile of old license plates and found a few Vermont vanity plates that read 'MFH.' As a member of Middlebury Field Hockey, I couldn't not buy them — it felt almost eerily perfect," Cho wrote to The Campus. "I think that shop has the potential to become one of those local treasures that reveal something special about everyone who walks through its doors."

As the DeVoes continue to settle into their new space, CobWeb Antiques has already begun to weave itself into the fabric of downtown Middlebury. For Gary and Jill, what began as a decades-old dream has become a place that brings the past to life for those who stop by.

One of many posters inside the new store.

THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS / IZZY RONDA

CobWeb Antiques is located at 60 Main Street, the former location of the thrift store Buy Again Alley.

NO KINGS! EXCEPT THE ONES WE LIKE...

Op-Ed

Ignacio N. Gamero *is a member of the class of 2026.*

On Saturday, Oct. 18, students, professors and Middlebury residents gathered, chanting "No Kings" in protest of President Donald Trump's perceived authoritarian tendencies. The message was clear: Trump is a threat to our country and must be denounced and opposed. The protest raises an important question: is democracy about labeling one leader a "king" while excusing similar authority when it comes from someone you support?

Consider examples of concentrated executive authority, both recent and historical. At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, governors imposed statewide lockdowns, and federal vaccine mandates restricted access to workplaces, schools and public spaces for the unvaccinated — a clear expansion of government control over personal behavior. At the same time, multiple social media platforms reported pressure from the Biden administration to remove or censor content, raising questions about government influence over public discourse. Even the selection of Kamala Harris as the Democratic presidential nominee without a primary victory has been criticized as a top-down decision that bypassed the democratic process. These modern cases echo a long history of presidential overreach: Nixon used the IRS to target political enemies; Franklin Roosevelt ordered the internment of Japanese Americans; Johnson weaponized federal agencies to monitor opponents and civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr.; George W. Bush expanded warrantless surveillance after 9/11; and Obama was accused of controlling journalists, overstepping in Libya, and even earned the moniker 'deporter-in-chief' for his record number of deportations.

While contexts differ, these cases show that executive power has long raised concerns about democratic overreach. Yet many of the same students who denounce Trump's alleged autocracy have celebrated similar authority under Obama or Biden. The inconsistency is striking: Power is condemned when wielded by a disfavored leader, but tolerated, or even applauded, when aligned with partisan preference.

The contradiction was on full display at the recent Political Science Democracy Panel, which concluded that Trump is a wannabe autocrat and that U.S. democracy is at risk. These are bold claims. While I deeply respect the panelists, I believe they ignored comparable "abuses of power" by other presidents. They condemned Trump's supposed efforts to "sideline" opponents without acknowledging the extent to which similar tactics have been deployed against him. Trump has faced multiple impeachments, social media bans, ballot challenges, a federal raid on his estate, two assassination attempts and constant public declarations that he is a "threat to democracy." Years of political and institutional efforts to marginalize him reinforce this pattern. However, the protest and panel portrayed him as uniquely dangerous, overlooking similar or greater exercises of power by others.

Contrary to popular discourse on campus, I believe President Trump is not a king or a "fascist fool," as one chant at the rally claimed. If he were truly an autocrat, the ability to protest freely or for scholars to hold public panels criticizing him would not exist. Real autocrats — Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela, Vladimir Putin in Russia, Kim Jong Un in North Korea — don't just discourage dissent; they allegedly imprison, torture, and even kill opponents. Comparing Trump to them cheapens the meaning of authoritarianism and blurs the line between disagreement and genuine repression.

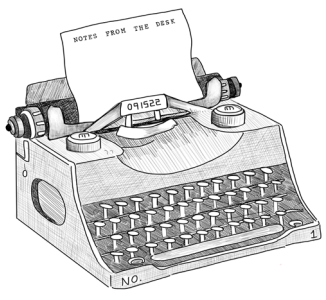
My critique of the No Kings rallies is not an endorsement of every action by the current administration, nor a defense of all of Trump's policies or rhetoric. I value the First Amendment and recognize that protest is one of democracy's most vital expressions — it holds leaders accountable and keeps civic life alive. However, there's a difference between principled dissent and selective outrage. Protesting a leader simply because you dislike him, while overlooking similar actions by others, reflects inconsistency rather than conviction. Some may argue that Covid-19 mandates or social media moderation were necessary, or that Trump's rhetoric poses a unique threat — and those arguments deserve to be heard. Yet the principle remains: Democracy depends on consistent, evidence-based scrutiny of all authority. Free protest, open debate, and academic inquiry exist precisely because no leader in America wields unchecked power — a fact the "No Kings" protest itself demonstrates.

If students and faculty truly believe in "No Kings," that standard must be applied universally. Democracy depends not on who holds power, but on consistent, principled evaluation of authority. Only through consistency of scrutiny does the defense of democracy become meaningful, rather than performative.

NOTES FROM THE DESK: WHAT IS THE EDITORIAL BOARD?

Op-Ed

Curran Amster *is a member of the class of 2026 and the Editorial Board Director.*



The Campus' Editorial Board (EB) is a group of fixed student editors who meet weekly to discuss issues important to the college community, and then publish a piece reflective of our conversations. We try to reach some degree of consensus to "call for" something, whether that's a demand for students to pay more attention to a specific issue, or for the college administration to take a particular action, like providing more transparency to its students.

Recently, we have received some Letters to the Editor in response to various editorials. Since our board often advocates for transparency, I thought this would be a good opportunity to provide some of our own and explain how The Campus creates its editorials. The EB's weekly piece represents the opinion of not just one person, but a larger group of our editors. As EB Director, I generate ideas for topics, help guide the group conversation and oversee the final piece for publication.

Any member of The Campus can join the EB; we send an open invitation to editors, writers and staff at the beginning of the semester. The managing editors, senior editors and opinions editors are required to participate in the EB. Any other editor can join, and we aim to welcome a variety of class years to partake in the discussions.

Our editorials respond to topical campus events and issues, covering what we feel is most relevant to our community each week; they often coincide with our objective news articles.

At our weekly meeting, we discuss the topic, sharing personal anecdotes and opinions shaped by our own experiences. Everything we share during these meetings is confidential; we agree not to share anything with non-EB members beyond what goes into the final piece. The confidential nature of our discussions is how we guarantee that the EB remains an open and comfortable space, and that the editorial piece will be as authentic and reflective of our true beliefs as possible. A rotating editor writes a piece representative of the discussion, which fellow editors then workshop.

The final editorial reflects the broadest consensus reached through proactive, free-form discussions within the group. We do not always agree on the final content, nor should we. We believe in the process we follow and want to make sure our readers appreciate the importance of the open and respectful discussions that lead to the editorials we publish. When an EB discussion is divided, we make it clear to our readers the range of rich opinions that surfaced during our conversation.

One of our notable uses of the EB is our yearly endorsement of SGA candidates. We invite all presidential candidates and their vice presidents — even those abroad via Zoom — to present us with a pitch for their candidacy before fielding questions from our staff. Some of our reflections this semester have focused on MiddCore's partnership with Open AI, the closure of MiddSafe and MIIS and the various opinions held about free speech on campus. Our board changes each semester as members graduate and The Campus hires new editors. We encourage all students to join The Campus and, in turn, become part of our EB. A strong EB is only as strong as its diversity of thought.

At our EB meetings, we express personal opinions. When writing, we distance ourselves from these opinions and instead aim to convey the consensus viewpoint. If you disagree with something we publish, want to present an alternative perspective or provide another example to our argument, we encourage you to respond by submitting a Letter To The Editor, a direct response to an article that has been published. We encourage this as it is a strong way to foster dialogue and discussion within our community. The best way to submit is via email to campus@middlebury.edu. Our publication of opinion pieces and editorials that people may disagree with is a critical element of free speech at Middlebury.

The EB is part of The Campus's broader Opinion section. The Opinion section welcomes any op-ed on a rolling submission format. Op-eds are typically 600-900 words in length and can include visuals, data or other instruments of expression where appropriate. An op-ed should consist of a central theme or argument, and writers must substantiate all factual claims. Op-eds will go through the same editing process as our writers. Requests for anonymity are only granted in exceptional cases. It is relevant to mention that The Campus is part of Middlebury College, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; we do not publish political statements from candidates. The Campus is grateful to all writers who have submitted op-eds, and continues to encourage others to do so.

Editors Note: Senior Opinions Editor Yuvraj Shah '26 contributed to this article.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

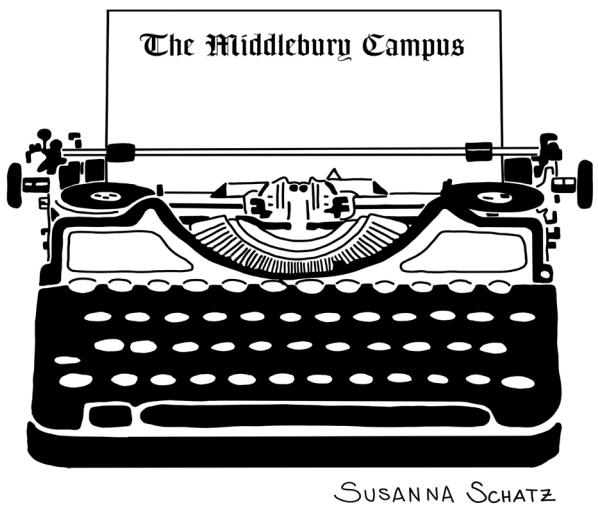
The Campus accepts submissions of opinions, reflections and letters to the editor from all members of our community, every week. Pieces from students, staff and faculty are all welcomed for consideration.

Email us at campus@middlebury.edu with your submissions!

THE CASE FOR STUDY ABROAD

Editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus Editorial Board.



More than half of the junior class at Middlebury studies abroad each year. They leave behind the comforts and benefits of staying on campus to immerse themselves in a foreign language, experience another culture and confront a totally different, often even more rigorous academic environment. Students who choose not to go abroad recognize the treasures and fleeting nature of our time at Middlebury or find themselves committed to extracurricular activities, course work or friend groups that entice them to remain here. There is no one right answer in making this choice. That being said, we believe that the more students who choose to study abroad, the better off Middlebury both in its global impact and in the vibrancy of its community here in Vermont.

Financial aid packages are easily transferable to Middlebury schools abroad. That means that for many of us, the opportunity to live and travel abroad is significantly less expensive right now than it will be or has been at other times in our lives. Going out into the far corners of the world for the purpose of intercultural exchange and education makes us more open-minded and more confident, preparing us to return to Middlebury both believing in ourselves and having gained an elevated understanding of the world we bury our noses in books here to study.

At a time when the U.S. administration is focusing inward and the global reputation of Americans is diminishing, sending educated young people enthusiastic to listen and engage with other cultures out into the world is especially important. Middlebury, with all of its connections and the strengths of its programs (it takes a special standing to be able to set up a study abroad program in Kazakhstan for Russian language learners, for example), is in a unique position to facilitate this vital exchange. As the college looks forward at forming its future identity, we call for it to continue to prioritize the schools abroad with this very goal in mind.

Many of Middlebury's programs were built by faculty directly connected to departments on campus. Some are not only academically aligned with courses here, but are integral to fulfilling wmajor requirements. While some programs Middlebury students sign up for are objectively easier than others, those that are Middlebury-sponsored force us to take our studies and immersion seriously. The Language Pledge or the one-on-one tutorials in the Oxford program are not easy endeavors, and we take pride in the fact that so many of us choose to take them on.

Those of us who have studied abroad realize how confident the difficult situations we were forced into while away turned us. Much of the value of studying abroad comes from the things you can't plan for. Small accomplishments, such as navigating how to get to class in a foreign city, become your win of the day and bring a healthy perspective to your Middlebury experience. Often lonely, stressed and missing the comfort of our friends and Vermont dorm rooms, we transformed into self-assured and experienced people. When we returned, we were more appreciative of the community we left behind and ready to make the most of our remaining time on campus.

Regardless, we want to emphasize that choosing to study abroad will always be a personal choice that not everyone can make. There are many benefits to spending your four years here on campus. The students who stay enrich our campus culture by making new friends in the absence of their usual groups, and ensure consistency in the campus activities that thrive under their leadership and commitment. There are also numerous logistical barriers at play: The high number of language prerequisites required for some study abroad programs are challenging to complete, especially if you started studying the language here. Often, studying abroad requires nearly perfect planning and foresight of your college classes, and that's not something that's feasible or even compelling for everyone.

Studying abroad should be valued for the opportunity that it is. It is a meaningful chance to become part of an academically robust community in another country, struggle as you enter adulthood, fail at new things and grow up. Few opportunities are able to give you as many life valuable experiences in a concentrated period of time. But there are also other times in life when we can have enriching, humanizing experiences, and there is plenty of time to gain these skills without studying abroad. Part of what makes this experience so unique is knowing that it will eventually come to an end. Leaving the Middlebury bubble reminds us why we cherish it. Coming back, we return more grounded, responsible and globally-minded, living more fully into the values Middlebury claims to champion.

The Princeton Review Wants Your Feedback About Middlebury!

- Scan to take ~15-minute survey
- Chance to win $50 Amazon gift card

The Princeton Review collects survey responses from current students and uses those to write profiles of colleges and create rankings. Middlebury's student body hasn't been widely surveyed in a couple of years. Consider scanning this QR code to help build a profile of the colege community for the years to come. It is open through Jan. 16, 2026. If you complete it, you might recieve a $50 Amazon gift card through Princeton Review.

A LETTER TO MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE FROM THE MIIS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Op-Ed

***The MIIS Student Advocacy Council** serves as the governing body for students at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.*

To the Middlebury College Community,

On behalf of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS) Student Advocacy Council, we would like to share our heartfelt sympathy and support for Lia Smith's family and friends, and to everyone at Middlebury who feels her absence. Though we are separated by distance, we are united with you in this time of mourning.

We also want to recognize the efforts of the community members, the Middlebury Police Department, Vermont State Police, and Middlebury College students who have been tirelessly during the investigation and during the search for Lia.

Please know that the MIIS community is thinking of you and remains ready to support in any way we can.

In solidarity,

The MIIS Student Advocacy Council.

The Middlebury Campus

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More information about the paper and its submission policies can be found online at www.middleburycampus.com.

The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. The Campus welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, though longer letters will be considered, or opinions submissions at 900 words or less.

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The Middlebury Campus

EXPLOITATION AND EVALUATION: GUEST LECTURER SONJA DRIMMER ON AI AND ART HISTORY

By ROHINA MAHADIK
Contributing Writer

Students and faculty gathered in the Mahaney Arts Center last month to discuss what some describe as the most pressing issue of our time — artificial intelligence (AI) — and how the rise of its industry exploits the arts.

Sonja Drimmer, an associate professor of medieval art at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, led the talk on Oct. 23. As an art historian, Drimmer focuses on the aesthetics and material culture of politics, along with an examination of pre-modern conceptions of power and authority. Over the past few years, she has focused on studying AI as a "cultural buzzword," with her talk at Middlebury drawing directly on her research for a forthcoming book on the topic.

Drimmer began her talk by drawing attention to an ad that OpenAI premiered at the most recent Super Bowl. Titled "The Intelligence Age," the ad summarizes the history of humanity in under a minute — beginning as a small dot in a matrix that expanded over centuries before emerging into the current digital age. Aided by detailed visuals, Drimmer passionately emphasized how this formulation of history is an attempt at rewriting the past for corporate gains. She stated that, to the AI Industry, "the past is just a collection of data points on a bar chart of progress, its ultimate destination a utopia of efficiency, optimization and uncertainty."

The manner in which computer vision has been "extracting the past" even prior to the rise of AI is her pivotal argument. She explains this point by classifying history into categories based on their exploitation by the tech industry. The first of these is "strip mine history", wherein companies reduce all images of the past as simple data to be rendered. The second, "stagist history," refers to a reductionist view of the past — exemplified by the OpenAI ad — in order to mold a specific vision of the future. The third stage is labelled "Trojan Horse history," which refers to institutions today that are constantly trying to one up each other in the AI race; acquiring AI models that are bigger and better than the previous ones.

To elucidate, Drimmer asked the audience whether they've ever been subjected to a Captcha test, one that most of us have become familiar with as residents of the digital age.

"When you are credentialing yourself as a human by means of a reCAPTCHA, what you are actually doing is training Google's image recognition algorithms for free," Drimmer said.

She then highlighted how the process of data visualization — still used by companies such as Google and Apple — is based on age-old practices that had previously been discredited and debunked. Connecting modern technologies with their histories, she stated that facial recognition features employed by these companies today still follow the rudimentary binary model first created in 1958. The modern version of this practice comes from companies training data algorithms to recognize predominantly white facial features, causing Apple photos to correlate images of black men with images of gorillas up until 2015. Now, attempting the exercise again 10 years later, Drimmer illustrated via her own photo gallery. Instead of altering the algorithm to tackle the problem, the ability to search for images of gorillas has entirely vanished. Thus, this is one of many ways such glitches work to increase funding for such technology without actively tackling its flaws.

She explained that this is where the history of art comes in. Google first inaugurated its arts and culture platform in 2011 and quickly began partnering with museums and galleries worldwide to "organize the world's information and make it universally accessible."

Partnering with museums for digitization initiatives became a tool for Google to strengthen its image recognition algorithm, once again conscripting the public to do its labour for free," Drimmer explained.

She provided the example of the "art selfie," which in January 2018 acted as a popular gimmick to upload selfies in order to match them with a historic doppelganger.

"The problem from my perspective is about the investments and priorities of those who have developed AI as a commercial enterprise whose only hope for profitability is to forcibly integrate it into every sector of life, no matter how inappropriate," Drimmer said. This, to her, is the underlying issue that art historians face today. It is not necessarily the functionality of AI, but instead how it reduces art to a means of material gain for the corporate world that begs critical attention.

COURTESY PHOTO/ ELIZA GARRISON
Sonja Drimmer lecturing on AI and its effects on the art industry.

Drimmer then pivoted her focus towards the use of ChatGPT at universities.

"It's never made clear how research in the historical humanities is aided by this infusion with AI, but universities are going full-steam ahead, enticed by the Trojan Horse of private money to plug the hole left by state and federal divestment," Drimmer said.

Herein lie the issues with OpenAI's goals: it's supposed to be accessible to all, a tool that simplifies otherwise complex processes in order to pave a better future for humanity. But, Drimmer's talk questioned who really benefits from this accessibility, and if there is really a need to simplify something as abstract as art and reduce it to a set of data points.

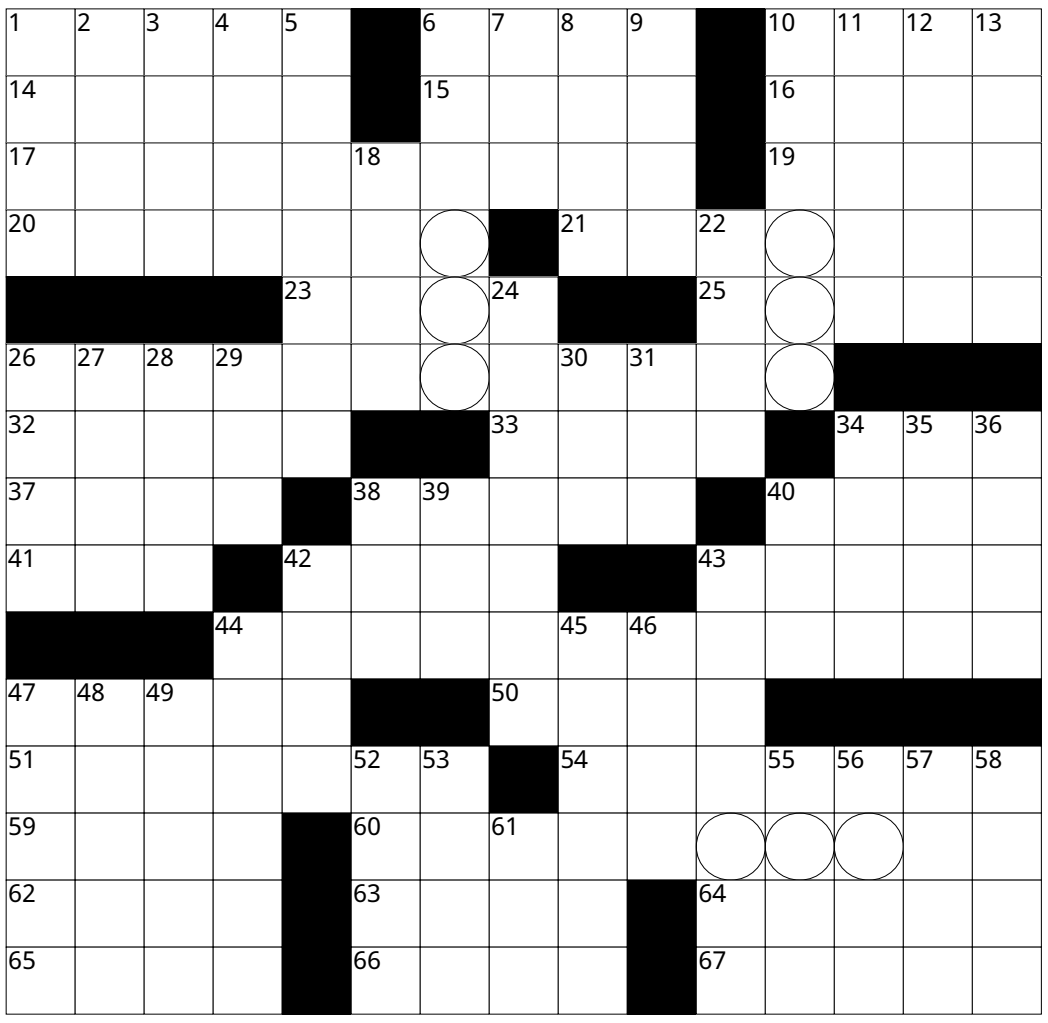
"We need to thrive in the present in order to have a future worth living in," Drimmer said towards the end of her talk.

However, instead of blindly embracing the rise of OpenAI, she stated that we must question pre-existing systems of power that currently act as detriments towards the accessibility of higher education.

The question of AI integration is one that has recently sparked discussion amongst the Middlebury community following MiddCore's partnership with OpenAI during J-term. Thus, Drimmer's lecture comes at a time of immense debate and uncertainty around the future of higher education, propelling us all — even outside of the History of Art department — to ponder its long-term ramifications.

Pear Of My Ear?

Winter Heaton



ACROSS
1 Turns to slush
6 What might come after poison ivy
10 Invitation letters
14 "That's ___!": "Funny!"
15 Wes Anderson's "___ of Dogs"
16 Water pitcher
17 Drink for redheads?
19 Take a chance
20 The one that got away
21 "Maybe, maybe not"
23 Old Ottoman governors
25 Little ones
26 What happens there, stays there; might be found on a waterfront couch pillow
32 Lassoed
33 Texas ___ M University
34 Ravenclaw Chang
37 Pug companion in "The Adventures of Milo and ___"
38 ___-Sun (lunch box drink)
40 "Excuse me ..."
41 Active ingredient in pot
42 New Zealander
43 Spook
44 Crossroad
47 Also, in Paris
50 Hawaiian moonfish
51 Dining hall on campus
54 Georgia neighbor
59 White part of an orange
60 Explorers
62 Fifth-century pope known as "the Great"
63 "The Sound of Music" backdrop
64 Anticipate
65 Jazzy Fitzgerald
66 Nastase of tennis
67 Rizzo of "Midnight Cowboy"

DOWN
1 Sorcerer
2 Goddess of discord
3 "The Mod Squad" role
4 Frat party garb
5 New old man?
6 Steakhouse selection
7 Enzyme suffix
8 Husky follower
9 Roll call response
10 Overnight flight
11 Posh
12 Like some salsa
13 Juice extractor
18 Stink
22 Cond. once called shell shock
24 "The Daily Wire" host Ben
26 Turkey ___ (Thanksgiving race)
27 "The Empire Strikes Back" ice planet
28 Totally awesome
29 "___ Misérables"
30 Sculler's need
31 Sea urchin, at a sushi bar
34 Spiced beverage
35 Protagonist
36 Black cat or butterfly, to some
38 Op. ___ (footnote abbr.)
39 Leave dumbstruck
40 Perform in a play
42 Work with yarn
43 Cream cheese serving
44 Volcanic island off the coast of Italy
45 Few and far between
46 Deserve
47 Circled letters' counterpart; an affectionate saying
48 One of the archangels
49 Traditional Mexican liquor similar to Mezcal
52 Ventura County's ___ Valley
53 Sushi serving
55 All-Mother of Pandora in "Avatar"
56 Tidy
57 Colorful part of the circled letters
58 On the subject of
61 News lextters

"THESE SHINING LIVES" ILLUMINATES GRIEF AND WOMANHOOD IN IN 1920S ILLINOIS

Continued from Page 1

started working at the dial company, the four women take a day off from work, "borrow" one of their husband's cars and drive to the beach. They picnic together, eating sandwiches and drinking gin.

The set included projected video footage of Lake Michigan with wave sounds in the background. The girls marvel at how they landed a job that affords them to enjoy such a perfect day; toasting to one another and to the Radium Dial company, hoping to keep working there for years to come.

However, things soon start going downhill when Catherine notices that her hands glow in the dark. The radium-infused paint is in her skin, and no matter how many times she washes her hands, she can't get it off. She starts to notice pain too: in her leg, her jaw, her bones, her whole body.

A visit to the company doctor only reveals his reluctance to treat her. Without much investigation, the doctor prescribes Catherine aspirin. In fact, he prescribes aspirin to all of the women in the company who have started to feel pain. But no matter how many times the doctor turns them away, the women suspect there is something far more sinister at play.

Soon enough, Catherine is fired from her job. As Mr. Reed puts it, she's taken too many sick days, has gotten sloppy with her painting and has been "talking" a lot — the company can't afford the spreading of harmful rumors. Eventually, Catherine's friends are also released from the Radium Dial company. Now unemployed, their pain worsens. As the women seek treatment, the doctors in town refuse to see them. They are forced to go to Chicago, where they finally find Dr. Dalitsch (Claire Hatch '26), who agrees to see and honestly diagnose them.

The women then find out they have radium poisoning, which is incurable and fatal. The play involves a second, contrasting scene at the shore of Lake Michigan, right where they picnicked and cheered to the Radium Dial company years ago. Now, however, they find themselves out of work and terminally ill.

Catherine finds solace in her friends, talking and playing poker with the other women. In one such game, the four decide that the winner will choose whether or not to put up a fight and hold the Radium Dial company legally accountable for knowingly poisoning the women. Catherine wins the game and decides to sue. Her biggest fear is being forgotten; she can't just quietly die and do nothing about the company that has sent her to an early grave.

The final scenes of the play involve a series of court hearings, lawsuits and ultimately Catherine's death. Director and Associate Professor of Theatre Michole Biancosino deliberately included projections of real newspaper headlines about the court proceedings to emphasize to the audience that this was based on real life. She also refrained from showing pictures of the actual women until the very end, so the audience's perception of the characters wouldn't be affected by the projected images.

"These Shining Lives" was unique in its preparation, a process that demanded a lot of research. The actors had to delve into the history of the play: who these women were, what Illinois was like in the '20s and '30s, what popular culture consisted of at the time, how radium affects the body, how prohibition worked and how the crime world of Chicago operated during that era.

The actors got the chance to talk with the playwright, Melanie Marnich, over Zoom. They learned about her inspiration for writing this play and Marnich's creation of the characters.

Biancosino explained that the play represents the metaphor of time on both small and large scales. The audience contemplates time in a broad context and also in the context of these women. Namely, how their time was cut short by painting clocks. Mark Evancho, the scene designer, made up the stage in the shape of a split-up clock. Like parts of a whole that have been separated out, the intricate design featured multiple circles that created an entire clock when put together.

COURTESY PHOTOS/ DARIA BISHOP

Molly Snow '26 as Catherine Donohue

> Biancosino explained that the play represents the metaphor of time on both small and large scales.

Biancosino emphasized that this play shines light on a tiny piece of history that informs us about ourselves today. There is still a lot of injustice surrounding the working class and workers' rights. Women's health and bodily rights are also issues constantly in the news and still something many don't take seriously. The play not only asks us to think of time in the context of these women's lives, but also within our own. Time is what we choose to make of it, and something we must let shine.

COURTESY PHOTOS/ DARIA BISHOP

Various photos from "These Shining Lives", which had four performances this past week.

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PARINI AND US: AN EXIT INTERVIEW

By ANTHONY CINQUINA, CHRISTY LIANG, & ELLIE TRINKLE
Arts & Culture Editors, Senior Arts & Culture Editor

To commemorate Jay Parini's retirement from his position as professor emeritus of English and Creative Writing, some of the A&C team sat down with him to chat about his career, life post-retirement and everything in between.

Ellie Trinkle: Why don't you tell us about yourself. What have you been up to in the past few weeks?

Jay Parini: This is my first semester not teaching in 50 years. So, I'm really enjoying my new lease on life in my new position, which is Writer in Residence at the college. I keep my office and I'm still talking to students and supervising theses and trying to be an active member of the literary community on the campus and to be here for people.

My mornings are always devoted to writing, and they have been for half a century. I write every morning, often in the Haymaker Buns Coffee Shop. Then I go home, write some more and play basketball or swim.

I've got a novel I'm finishing about Graham Greene, the English writer, whom I met some decades ago; I have a book of poems that's almost done, and I just finished a play. In another recent book for the Library of America, I chose from some of my favorite poems from the Puritans to the present, with an essay on each one.

Anthony Cinquina: I want to ask you about the variety of kinds of writings you've engaged in. It seems to me that you've managed to strike a good balance between different forms of expression. There's memoirs and biographies and novels, and you've been involved in films and plays now and poetry, of course. Do you find that you've balanced it well, how have you done that?

JP: I think I've been naturally inclined to write in different forms. When I first began writing, I thought "I'll just be a poet." And then, I started finding myself writing longer and longer poems. I thought "Well I must try this as a piece of fiction," and I started writing novels. And then, as a fairly young man, I got involved in writing biographies. Once I wrote one biography I liked doing it, so I wrote six biographies. I've written biographies of Robert Frost, John Steinbeck, William Faulkner, Gore Vidal and Jesus.

Memoir is a more recent genre for me. I had great fun writing "Borges and Me" — my memoir of my travels in 1971 with the great Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges. He and I travelled together in the Highlands when I was 22 and he was in his 70s in my old car. He was totally blind and wildly talkative.

I've also been involved in filmmaking. One thing led to another, and I've managed to do three movies, and not do about 10 movies. That's because projects often fall through.

Christy Liang: How do you see all these mediums as different, or perhaps ultimately similar, vehicles of truth?

JP: It's all storytelling. And storytelling is an effort to get at the truth. Even a poem is a story; it always has a bit of a plot. Every form I work in is a version of storytelling, and I'm trying to find a story that interests me. It might've come out of my own life, Walter Benjamin's, Robert Frost's. I'm interested in people's lives and stories.

AC: Among those incredible artists and thinkers, whose life did you find most difficult to capture in words, is there one that stands out? You can include Jesus.

JP: Jesus, yes, those were the hardest interviews. Every one of those biographies presented its own challenges. William Faulkner was a very complicated writer, and it broke my brain trying to wrap my mind around him and his fiction. Gore Vidal was challenging because he was a close friend of mine. He was a difficult, strongly alcoholic man which presented personal and emotional challenges. Robert Frost was the most satisfying biography for me because I love Frost's work and have lived in Frost's world in New England.

ET: Do you have any early memories of realizing you wanted to become a writer? Have you always wanted to be one?

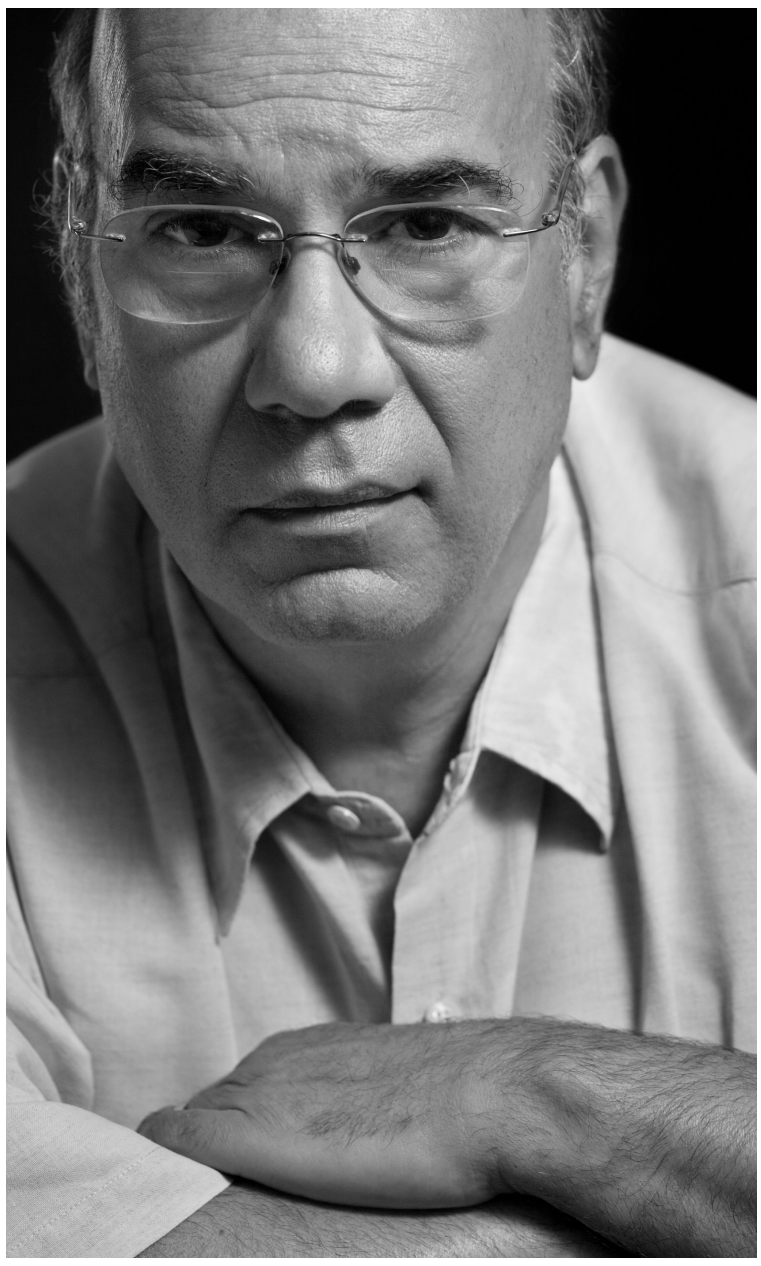
JP: Early on I thought I wanted to be a stand-up comic. I think I've kept that going, that's what teaching is for me. Teaching is strangely a version of stand-up comedy — the comedy keeps the material alive, keeps students engaged. I love audiences and performing. I wanted to be a poet, only a poet, at first. And then I realized I had to make a living, which was a bummer.

So, I did a Ph.D., but it didn't satisfy my urge to tell bigger stories. So, I started writing novels, and at the end of the day I've written ten novels. It sounds more impressive than it is. It's just a question of one word after another, one year after another. You have to be lucky, have good health and energy and have the wish to do it. It takes a great deal of patience. You've got to maintain your ambition, and at times that can be rather demoralizing. You make false starts. I have a lot of projects that are in the drawer, where they belong.

AC:I think a lot of young people encounter a figure — an author, if it's writing —who opens their eyes to the world of literature. Was there a person or a few people like that in your adolescence who inspired you to go in that direction?

JP: I came from a very working class family in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Nobody in my family read books let alone wrote books. So there were no books in my family except "The Bible." The high school I went to, West Scranton High School, had 3,000 students and the vast majority of my classmates went off to fight in the Vietnam War. A very small number went on to college. So, I didn't have any models before me to think about becoming a serious writer or even reader.

The first writer I met was Alastair Reid, a Scottish poet who wrote for The New Yorker. He was amazingly influential in my life. The movie "Borges and Me" is partly about my relationship with him. He was my mentor who introduced me to a lot of other writers, taught me about the literary world and inspired me.



Jay Parini, former professor emeritus of english and creative writing.

CL: Would you say that growing up in this relative literary vacuum has somehow deepened your sensitivity to narrative?

JP: My mother, though uneducated, was a great storyteller. In my family of origin, everybody sat around and told stories and made jokes, which was a very supportive environment.

My students from Middlebury come from middle class families where there's a lot of pressure and competition; they're in a race of some kind. I never had that impediment. I think I lucked out. The vacuum I came from was in some ways generative.

ET: While we're in this sort of reflective mood, do you have a favorite memory at the college that you're carrying with you to retirement?

JP: I remember certain writers that came to campus. Those were exciting moments for me. One year in particular, I invited Adrienne Rich, Seamus Heaney, and Mario Vargas Llosa. That was thrilling. With each of these speakers, we filled the Chapel, with standing room only. We had students talking to them afterward and the conversations spilled into weeks and months. To me that was a really great example of what the college can be: a place of conversations.

I remember my classes vividly. I've really loved teaching here over the years. I've had smart students and many of them have gone on to become writers and stay in close touch with me. It's an ongoing relationship.

CL: Do you have any advice for young writers who want to build their lives around storytelling and meaning making?

JP: You only need one thing, which is discipline. I would urge people to develop a writing practice where they set aside a certain amount of time every day, keep a journal, write their ideas down and write everyday. It needn't be a long period of time. One of the best pieces of advice I had from a writer was early on, I wrote to the brilliant and prolific Pennsylvania writer John Updike saying "I really like your novels and stories" and I met up with him for lunch at a McDonalds.

He said, "Just do two or three pages a day, and at the end of the year that's over 600 pages, that's two full books. If you just do two pages a day and keep consistent, you will have a shelf of books by the end of your life."

ET: And you do have a shelf!

JP: I do have a shelf, over 30 books published. Maybe too many books.

ET: What are you reading now?

JP: I am reading a 600 page biography on Ian Flemming, author of James Bond. It's a fun book to read. I read all kinds of books: popular biographies, more serious novels, crappy novels, poetry, criticism. I always go back to the classics: Frost, Wallace Stevens and T.S. Eliot.

AC: Is there a form of writing that you feel like your brain naturally feels more comfortable in? Poetry, criticism, prose?

JP: My most natural form is poetry, but I like memoir as well. "Borges and Me" came easily, and it felt good. My wife thinks I should've been writing memoirs from the beginning. I could never resist telling stories from my own life to students. It got to be an embarrassment.

ET: They're really good stories, though.

AC: Maybe it's a characteristic from your storytelling family.

JP: Yeah, I think that's exactly what it is. I love telling stories, and in class I have always told lots of stories. But, I am 77 years old, at a certain point you have to stop. I have books I would like to finish and I'd like to do another solid 10 years of writing.

AC: Another movie or two?

JP: Another movie or two, that's the theory of the thing. But I also hope that the students will stay in touch with me. That's the hardest part of giving up teaching. I love talking to students. I get a lot from those conversations.

ET: Do you have any more wisdom to impart?

JP: There's no reason why anyone can't be a writer. So many of my students have gone off and published novels, memoirs, written and directed movies. It's amazing how many of them have done things. There's no end of possibilities.

Editor's Note: This interview has been lightly edited for clarity.

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FIELD HOCKEY BOUNCES BACK AGAINST BOWDOIN

COURTESY PHOTO / STOCKTON PHOTO

Claire McMichael '27, scorer of Middlebury's overtime winning goal on Saturday.

By JULIA RANDOLPH
Contributing Writer

On Tues, Oct. 28 the decorated Middlebury field hockey squad took on 17th ranked Williams. Following a scoreless 60 minutes and two rounds of overtime, the Panthers won in a shootout. With the victory, the Panthers earned hosting rights for the first round of the NESCAC tournament. As the No. 2 seed, they hosted No. 7 Bowdoin at home.

The Panthers faced Bowdoin a month earlier, falling to the Polar Bears in a shootout. Saturday's match was a chance for Middlebury to reassert their dominance and advance in the tournament, though a win would not come easily. Bowdoin, hungry after missing last year's postseason, trailed Middlebury just 30-28-1 prior to Saturday's matchup.

Starter Emma McNealy '28 shared her excitement to play Bowdoin.

"Our loss to them earlier in the season was all the more reason to beat them this time around," McNealy said.

Midfielder Megan Fuqua '27, Middlebury's lead scorer and holder of the third highest average shot per goal percentage in the NESCAC, also touched on the motivating aspect of playing in the postseason. "From this point on, every game we play is a fight for more days together as a team."

This motivation, energy and incentive was clear throughout their matchup.

Although Bowdoin opened the scoring in the fourth minute of play, Fuqua tied the score early in the second quarter off a penalty stroke. The goal marked her ninth of the season.

In the third quarter both teams tallied another goal. The Panthers' Ellie Harrison '26 scored in the 31st minute off an assist from Fuqua. Nine minutes later, Bowdoin responded with a controversial rebound goal to tie the game at 2–2.

"The referee elected to self-review the goal using the video review system which was malfunctioning at the time," McNealy said. "This was a frustrating moment, given that our team felt the call should have been overturned."

While the Panther's offensive line was generating scoring opportunities, their defensive line, consisting of Grace Keefe '26, Tessa Herbst '28 and Lily Stockwell '28, held strong to prevent Bowdoin from creating such opportunities of their own. In goal, Izzy Redzic '27 defended five of the seven shots Bowdoin recorded.

The clock ticked to 60 minutes and neither team had scored an additional, winning goal. Both teams would have to fight for the win in overtime, a clash between seven players versus the usual eleven.

The first-goal-wins rule creates a sense of urgency— a single mistake can cost an entire game's worth of work. With the added stress of turnovers, a field hockey overtime promises a high energy matchup.

However, the Panthers are no strangers to playing beyond regulation.

"We have played far more overtime games this season than most Middlebury Field Hockey teams collectively have," McNealy said.

Yet Saturday's overtime against Bowdoin was different. If the Panthers wanted to advance to the semifinals, they had to win. There was no other option.

"During the postseason, it's win or go home," Fuqua said. "There's less leeway to attempt a lower-percentage shot and scoring chance at the risk of losing possession."

Hadley Crowther '29 intercepted the ball in Bowdoin's defensive 15 in the 64th minute of play. Claire McMichael '27 then took the rebound and scored, tallying her second game-winning goal in overtime this season.

As McMichael lifted the ball over the Bowdoin goalie, Middlebury players cheered and the fans were ecstatic. It was a great day to be a Panther.

Middlebury's win books a matchup with Bates, currently ranked sixth in the National Field Hockey Coaches Association poll. While the Bobcats lost to the Panthers just two weeks ago, Middlebury can expect fierce competition regardless.

Bates unexpectedly beat Middlebury in the semifinals at home last year — a win this Saturday would bring redemption and the ability to advance in the tournament. If Middlebury defeats the Bobcats, they will play in the NESCAC Field Hockey Championship final on Sunday against the winner of the Tufts-Wesleyan game.

Middlebury is the only school to qualify for every conference tournament since the initial championship was held in 2000. The Panthers are a strong and dynamic team, and if Saturday's game against Bowdoin proved anything, Middlebury is ready to put up a fight, continue their season, and defend their legacy of domination.

Middlebury Volleyball bounces back with strong weekend sweep

By KANAN CLIFFORD
Sports Editor

Coming off a tough couple of weeks, Middlebury volleyball bounced back on Senior Weekend with a 3–0 sweep of Amherst, followed by a 3–1 win over Hamilton, punctuated by outside hitter Molly Harrison '27's thousandth career kill — an exclamation point on her standout year.

The Panthers beat Amherst comfortably, winning each set by at least six points and holding Amherst to a mere 51 total points in the sweep. The Hamilton game, however, was a gritty, nailbiting contest where the Continentals gave Middlebury a run for their money. To the casual observer, the game was not Middlebury's most dominant performance, but student assistant Spencer Ralph '28.5 painted a different picture: "We actually had one of our best statistical performances [against Hamilton], with our highest assist (54) and kill tallies (64) of the season."

Middlebury's .341 hitting percentage against Amherst and .263 percentage versus Hamilton were both top-6 in the season, and their best numbers since their game against Bates on October third. The Panthers' hitting prowess was evident in the first set against Hamilton. Middle hitter Ava Tuccio '26 helped the Panthers to an early lead with two key kills, while precise hitting from Harrison and Gabby Pribisich '27 sealed the set.

So what changed? How did the team bounce back from a tough month? One explanation is the return of outside hitter and captain Lillian Caldwell '26, who had been out of the starting lineup most of the year. Caldwell provided an immediate spark, notching 11 kills on Friday and 14 on Saturday. On the court, she was unflappable. Off it, "she's one of the best teammates I've seen or had in sports," Ralph said.

The week before, the team also trained relentlessly. "We didn't 'break down' as much this week, but rather went full steam ahead with six-on-six scrimmages," head coach Sarah Raunecker '92 said.

Now turning to the NESCAC playoffs: The Panthers drew Williams, a solid team but one that Middlebury beat in five sets earlier this season. If Middlebury gets past Williams, they would face #6-ranked Colby College in the second round as they look to carry their momentum into the tournament.

MENS SOCCER PULLS OFF COMEBACK TO BEAT BOWDOIN

By THEO MANIATIS
Sports Editor

The Middlebury men's soccer team will head to the NESCAC semifinals after upsetting the Bowdoin Bears in a thriller, extending their win streak to four games. Addressing his team's underdog label in the upcoming playoffs, center back Pablo Gonzalez '26 gave a clear answer: "We like being the villains."

The Vegas sportsbooks would have had third-seeded Bowdoin winning this game. They boasted a better record, were playing at home, and had not conceded a goal since September. But Middlebury wasn't fazed, scoring two goals in the last 17 minutes to win 2–1. The lesson here? Don't count this team out, and never bet on sports.

The Bears scored first in the 19th minute from a free kick. Launched from the midfield, the ball bounced around in the box before finding the Panther's net. Your turn, Middlebury.

With the season on the line, Orlando Cavaceppi-Dove '29 carried the ball from the midfield before delivering a perfect pass into the box to Will Sawin '27, who slipped the ball under the Bowdoin keeper. By the way, Sawin is chasing his second championship of the year, after winning USL League 2 with Vermont Green FC over the summer.

Seven minutes later, Bowdoin conceded a freekick on the left side of the box. In preparation, the Bears keeper set up so far to the right he could have touched the goalpost, offering up the entire left side of the goal. In a moment of magic, Colin Dugan '27 curled the ball over the four-man wall and squeezed it down into the top left corner.

Dugan wheeled away to the corner flag while the rest of the team hopped, skipped, and jumped their way over to pounce on him. Joey Waterman '26 joined a few seconds after a long, joyous sprint from his goal. Meanwhile, Bowdoin fans stood as rigid as the pine trees overlooking the field.

"It was easily the best goal I have ever scored in my career in terms of the timing, scenario, and the overall shot itself," Dugan told The Campus.

Eight minutes later, the comeback was complete — Middlebury was heading back to the NESCAC semifinals for the sixth straight year.

Next weekend, the Panthers face number one seeded Tufts, where they'll look to play villain again. A win would see them reach the finals on Sunday.

"I expect us to go into Tufts full of confidence and desperate to get our revenge from the regular season," Dugan promised. "Then give it our all on Sunday and hopefully come back to Vermont with some silverware."

MIDDLEBURY CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS RACE AT NESCAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

By SIMON SCHMIEDER
Senior Sports Editor

COURTESY PHOTO / GEORGE MADISON

Audrey MacLean '27 gapping the field.

Ducking under ropes and weaving between team tents, we cheered. The herd of runners stormed by, and frenzied fans cut across to the next sector of the race, only to barely catch sight of the stampede before sprinting along a new shortcut for another close-up glimpse. Amid warlike chaos, loyal Middlebury students, alumni, parents and dogs rallied behind the men's and women's cross country teams on Sat. Nov. 1 as they competed at the NESCAC Championship.

This year's meet was hosted by Connecticut College, taking place at the Harkness Memorial State Park. Their course is notoriously quick, featuring long, flat straightaways of trampled grass and hardly any elevation gain. As Zach Utz '26 explained, the only true challenges of the course are its exposure to high winds, a stretch of deeper sand and the occasional gravel patch along the racing line.

"Other than that it's a great course. There's a reason so many teams come here for their invitational," Utz said. The annual invitational meet took place two weeks prior on the same course, this year drawing distant schools such as St. Olaf and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps.

Saturday's NESCAC Championship opened with the men's 8k. After a more conservative start to the race, the Panthers sat in seventh overall by the two-mile mark. The need for a mid-race push became urgent, yet any significant moves proved challenging in Saturday's conditions.

"On the second lap you flip directions and start going into the wind ... that flip into the wind with three miles to go was pretty brutal," Owen Johnson '26 said.

Benjamin Hughes '27 agreed. "Today obviously with the 20, 30 mile an hour gusts of wind, you definitely had to think about being in the peloton," he said.

Regardless, the Panthers were able to fight the gusts and gradually work up the field. Johnson continually climbed throughout the race, passing 27 runners between the first mile split and the finish. Cam Miles '28 passed 12 competitors in the final mile and a half alone, and consistent moves from Nathan Szubin '29 and captain Harry Griff '26 helped bring the Panthers' top seven towards the front. Individually, Middlebury's scorers were Hughes (12th), Johnson (21st), Ethan Sholk '29 (32nd), Miles (33rd), and Utz (40th). Together, they secured the Panthers' team finish of fifth.

Although the team had hoped to beat Wesleyan, who finished in fourth, they could still be content with the result. The NESCAC is highly competitive this year, with #22 Middlebury being one of five teams nationally ranked in the top 25.

"We came in right where we're ranked and you can never be disappointed with that, but we're definitely still hungry for regionals," Johnson said.

"I think it was a solid day but we definitely have more to give," Griff added.

Then, just as the finish line carnage cleared and the men returned to the team tent, the women's race set off. Surging forward from the gun, the Middlebury women ran a measured opening couple miles. Placed in fourth after the first mile, the Panthers steadily moved up to reach second by the halfway point of the race.

"I went into the race with a plan that I was going to stick with the top pack for the first two miles and then try to pick it up from there," Audrey MacLean '27 said.

Over a decisive third mile, Middlebury slashed their team score from 82 to 66 points, creating a substantial gap over a closely-following Connecticut College team. MacLean quickly built a fifteen second lead at the front of the race, while MK Cestaro '28 charged up the field to pass 27 runners over two and a half miles. Shea Fajen '28 also made substantial progress throughout the race, and Naomi Atwood '28 picked off 31 competitors from the first mile to the finish.

MacLean cruised to her second individual NESCAC title, winning by 17 seconds. Grace Palmer '29 (3rd), Cestaro (16th), Fajen (20th), and Grace Kaelber '29 (32nd) rounded out the Panthers' scoring five, all achieving personal bests and helping lift Middlebury to second place as a team.

"We were able to just get out there and send it and we had an amazing day. I'm so proud of every single one of our ladies," captain Lucca Franz '26 reflected.

Like the men's conference, the NESCAC currently has five top-25 women's cross country teams, including #1 Williams College. Key to Middlebury's performance against fierce competition was the support along the course, especially from fellow Panther cross country and track & field athletes.

"When I was feeling down in the middle of the race, I saw some track guy with a giant 'M' or 'I' or 'D' written on his chest in blue waving the flag around. That gave me the energy I needed to keep going and crush the race," captain Victoria Fawcett '26 said. "They were featured on every single corner."

Moving forward, the women's cross country team will continue to lean into a new team philosophy — embracing love rather than fixating on finishing placement or performance.

"We're gonna keep emphasizing love ... love for each other, love for the sport. Enjoying the experience of being present," Fawcett said.

For the men, they can count on a shift in momentum and increased sharpness as they lower mileage heading into the final weeks of the season.

"Two years ago we had a pretty tough day [at NESCACs], and then turned it around and had the fastest race in Middlebury history two weeks later. I think everybody's feeling like we can come back and do that again," Griff said.

The cross country teams return to racing on Nov. 15 at the NCAA Mideast Regional Championships. It will likely be colder, St. Lawrence University's course is hillier, and the competition will reach new heights as teams fight for a bid to nationals. Yet the passionate support, a Middlebury flag waving atop a 15-foot pole and inspiring efforts from the Panther cross country runners, are all a guarantee.

WOMEN'S SOCCER ADVANCES TO SEMIFINALS WITH WIN OVER HAMILTON

Continued from Page 1

Davidson ended the game with eight saves, just one short of tying her career best. In a match that looked even on paper, her eight saves against the opponent's five could very well have proven to be the difference maker. Middlebury attempted just one more shot than their opponent (20-19), and Hamilton actually tallied more on target (8-7).

Trust was key in the Panthers' victory, said Davidson. "Ultimately it just came down to doing my job and trusting that the rest of my teammates would do theirs," said Davidson.

Day's goal was her third of the season, while Moritz tallied her first. Many players have chipped in this season, with 14 different players contributing goals and seven of them having netted twice.

The Panthers will look to keep their championship dreams alive when they travel to face Williams in the NESCAC Semifinal round next Saturday. The matchup provides a chance for the Panthers to avenge their 0–1 loss to the Ephs in the regular season finale on Oct. 28.

"We've carried this trust in each other throughout the season," said Davidson when asked how the Panthers are preparing for the big matchup. "We're tackling each part of our game and strategy one moment at a time and preparing to come out strong this weekend."

COURTESY PHOTOS / WILL COSTELLO

Goalkeeper Livia Davidson '26 for the Panthers.